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A special conference was summoned for 5 February 1954 by Deputy Oberbuergermeister Alfred Neumann at the office of Fritz Ebert, Oberbuergermeister of East Berlin. This conference was ~~conferred with~~ the growing unrest among the East German population about the obvious failure of the Big Four Conference. Neumann stated that every step had to be taken to prevent the Soviet delegation from appearing in an unfavorable light because the East German Government would be affected if the population came to believe that the Soviets were to be blamed for the failure of the conference. In this connection Neumann mentioned that terror acts against SED functionaries and VP quarters had been committed in Dresden, Leipzig, Chemnitz and Halle after the distribution there of illegal leaflets. Neumann furthermore stated that sabotage acts had been committed in heavy industrial plants in Magdeburg and Stalinstadt and that slogans for a slow-down movement had been started in various East Berlin enterprises. Labor productivity had decreased and it must be feared that strikes would be proclaimed if the shop trade union managements (BGL) appealed to the workers to fulfill their work norms. For this reason, the SED action squads in industrial enterprises had been ordered to display increased vigilance, the action squads had been armed with carbines and provided with additional ammunition and food.

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